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THE TRUE
NARRATIVE
OF THE
EXECUTION

Of *John Marketman*, Chyrurgian, of *Westham*
in *Essex*, for Committing a

Horrible & Bloody Murther

Upon the Body of his *Wife*, that was big with
Child when he Stabbed her.

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TOO frequently do we hear of such Bloody
Murthers acted by such Miscreants as have
no regard to Gods Glory, nor the comfort
of their own Souls; as may appear by this person
whose Name was *John Marketman* a Sea Chyrur-
gian by Profession, a Ministers Son by Descent;
and worfe than a Tyrant for this his Bloody inhu-
mane act, as by the sequel I will give you to un-
derstand, It happened not long since that this *Mar-
ketman* took to Wife one *Mary Smerlin*, with
whom he lived some time in Content and Peace,
but not long after suggesting to himself strange con-
ceits of his Wife, begun to be possesed with Jealou-

sic, whether with or without just Cause, I refer it
 to those who were better acquainted with her than
 my self but yet I hope all rational people will al-
 low that where Jealousie once finds entertainment
 in the heart of any Man or Woman, there is little
 hopes of any quiet life, and often begets ardent de-
 sires of secret Revenge, which oftentimes launch-
 es forth into such extrems, whose productions
 are miserable and ends in Shame and Reproach as
 you may see by the abovenamed *Marketman*, who
 not long since being restless in his Mind, and fear-
 ing lest every times he was out of his Sight that
 she was in the Company of him whom he belie-
 ved she respected far beyond himself, at least was
 too familiar with, which Report says was a Bayliff
 living not very far from them, grew extreemly dis-
 consolate, and that which more grieved this already
 discontented Soul, was, that he oftentimes was
 affronted and jeered about the aforesaid Bayliff,
 which he so evilly resented that he gave way to the
 Temptation of Satan, who presently infused into
 his heart desire of Revenge, and did strongly ani-
 mate him to this prodigious Cruelty, which too
 soon he barbarously acted in manner following.

It happened one day that he came home very
 much debauched and distempered in Drink, which
 his Wife taking notice of, perswaded him to ly
 down on the bed, which he accordingly did, and
 sleep soon taking possession of his drowsy Brain
 quickly became Master of his Senses: In the mean
 time his Wife not doubting but that he was secure

for

for some considerable Ipace, went out and locked the door, intending to return ere his nap had been ended; but in the interim he awaked, and hearing no noise in the house, began presently to make a bad Construction of her absence, and starting up, looked about for her who was not there to be found, which so perplexed his Jealous mind, That he violently broke open the Door and went upon the search for her whom he feared was accompanied with her friend, but not finding her there, he returned, where he found her at a Neighbours House: Now began Satan to prompt him on to the execution of that he had predetermined in his mind, This poor woman who was big of her first Child, not dreaming that his passion was so violent that nothing could assuage it but the loss of her own and her poor Babes life, and the letting out of her immortal Soul for the expiation of her supposed Crime, She I say when she see her Husband abroad whom she left locked up in the House was somewhat amazed, but not fearing any harm went to him, who took her about the neck Judas like as if he intended to kiss her, and all on a sudden thrust his accursed Knife into, if not through her poor Heart, so that she fell down dead upon the spot, and that Soul wounding blow proved fatal to both Husband Wife and Child, for which Bloody and execrable Murther he was committed to the County Goal at Chelmsford, and there at the last Assizes received a just Judgment of Condemnation, and was ordered to be Hanged at the common place of Execution; but he on his bended Knees did beg as his last request of the Judge, that he might be brought to the Town where he did perpetrate this wicked Act, there to be Executed according to his Sentence, which was Granted, and on the 17th. day of this present

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sent Month of April 1686, after a Sermon was Preached before him in the presence of some Thousands of horrid Spectators, was lead to the place of Execution by his own Mother, who poor Soul drowned in Sorrow when she came to the Gibbet fell in a Swoon, hardly to be recovered, and when he was upon the Ladder made a very long Speech to this purpose, That he had been very disobedient to his too indulgent Parents, and that he had spent his Youthful days in Profanation of the Sabbath and licentious evils of Debaucheries beyond expression, and that he had been over penituous in his narrow observance of his Wives ways, desirous that all should pray to the Eternal God for his everlasting welfare, and with many pious expressions ended this mortal life. That being ended, he recommended his Soul to the Almighty, and the Executioner did his Work.

FINIS.

